Suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. Acts 2:2

Soundings

News and Information from the Northwest Washington Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Volume 20, Number 9 October 2003

Experiencing The Assembly

by Cindy Kopperstad, Member of Grace in Des Moines and Chair of the Synod World Hunger Committee

It was through this churchwide assembly (my first) that I experienced a combination of learning about healing and the ELCA by participating in new ways to worship and serve God, by reading pages of reports and by voting on legislative issues.

For the Healing of the World was the theme of our 2003 ELCA Churchwide Assembly. I had the opportunity to see and learn about healing through the eyes of:

† Women pastors from Brazil, India, Kenya, Tanzania and the US;

† Bishop Younan (ELCJ), Presiding Bishop Hanson (ELCA) and Presiding Bishop Schultz (ECIC); and

† ELCA pastors of diverse backgrounds and from just as many geographic locations.

Diversity and healing were present in every aspect of the assembly including issues on which people have diverse opinions. Daily worship services differed: traditional, modern and bilingual. I experienced prayer around the cross, spiritual dance, healing prayer/anointing, global songs, spirituals, traditional and contemporary songs.

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Synod News and Information

Help For Treasurers

A Financial Workshop for congregation treasurers, bookkeepers and other finance workers will be held from 8:30 a.m. to noon on Saturday, Oct. 25, at Prince of Peace in Shoreline.

The ELCA's Office of the Treasurer has a newly redesigned website at www.elca.org/ot. The website includes suggestions and guidelines, financial reports, budgets, insurance forms and lots more.

Fiscal Year 2005 Budget Process

Heads Up! The budget process for fiscal year 2005 will be different than in prior years.

On Saturday, Sept. 20, the Synod Council will adopt goals for 2005. The Finance Committee will then send out budget request forms including copies of the goals and ask boards, committees and task forces requesting budgets to relate their needs to the Synod Goals. **The deadline for return of the budget requests will be November 30.** The Synod Council will review the requests in January 2004 and forward them to the Executive Committee to work with the Finance Committee to develop a draft budget. That draft budget will be presented to the Synod Council for review in March, prior to the 2004 Synod Assembly. If you have any questions contact Dan Bormann, Chair, at 425-739-4732

Welcome Synod Office Volunteer

When you call or visit the synod office, have you been welcomed by a new voice? You sure have. Bev Cook is the newest volunteer at the synod and is a wonderful asset. Bev and her husband, Bill, have been married since 1966. They have one son, Brian. They are members of Maple Leaf in Seattle. She retired in 2002, and is currently working part time at Maple Leaf. Bev was born in Newfoundland, her mother's country and before it was a province of Canada, while her father was serving in the Army. At age three, the family returned to her father's home in North Dakota, and at age nine the family moved to Richland where she grew up, graduated from high school and worked at the Hanford Nuclear Reservation. Not a "born" Lutheran, she was raised and became a Christian in the Presbyterian church. Bev worked for 32 years as a legal secretary and legal assistant in Seattle, and is proud to say she worked for the same attorney for 28 years. Welcome Bev!

A Word From The Assistant to the Bishop,

Rev. Janice E. Nesse

October is our tenth month but its name means "eighth month," from the history of calendar development and not really important to this article. It's just a happy coincidence that I wanted to lift up eight things in this October article.

There is a lot being written now about church development, renewal and transformation. Books abound that offer models of ministries and conferences and seminars are offered on various strategies to renew the church. I confess that I have read many of them...and some are more appealing than others. Over this past year I have discovered something that goes beyond models and looks at principles of development.

Natural Church Development by Christian Schwartz (ChurchSmart Publications, 1996) is based on the understanding that the Great Commission is the number one priority of the church. Further, it does not focus on growth as its primary motivation but rather, on what it means to be a healthy church, a healthy community of believers, a dedicated group of disciples.

The farmer "scattered seed on the ground, and would sleep and rise night and day, and the seed would sprout and grow, he does not know how. The earth produces of itself..." [Mark 4:26-29] is the foundation of "natural church development." That is, we go about being faithful Christians and encouraging one another and "God gives the growth." [1 Corinthians 3:6]

Schwartz and his researchers set about studying 1000 churches in 32 countries; large, small, evangelical, mainline, persecuted, state subsidized, prominent and unknown and found that there were eight quality characteristics that answered their question: "What should each church and every Christian do to obey the Great Commission in today's world?"

The eight quality characteristics were these: First, there was empowering leadership. Whether leaders were ordained or lay, their ministry was concentrated on empowering other Christians for ministry... which is not the same as abdicating responsibility for the ministry of the church, but rather it is making helpers and managers into leaders.

The second characteristic follows closely. It is that the ministry is based on the gifts of those gathered. If we really believe in the 'priesthood of all believers" it follows that when people are serving in their area of giftedness, they can rely less on themselves and more on the power of the Holy Spirit to accomplish the tasks set before them.

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Synod Appreciates Churchwide Volunteers

Our synod is blessed with many volunteers who take the time to share their talents on synod committees, task forces and synod council. (Please see the new Synod Directory for a complete list of these committees.) We lift them up in our prayers of thanksgiving.

There is also a group of volunteers who served or are continuing to serve on Churchwide Committees. Thank you to all of these volunteers! Those whose terms ended at the 2003 Churchwide Assembly are:

- Dorothy Baumgartner , Division for Outreach Board (chair), member of St. Peter, Clinton.
- Rev. Carol Jensen, Division for Church and Societ (vice chair), pastor of St. John United, Seattle.
- David Swartling, ELCA Foundation Board (chair), member of Bethany, Bainbridge Island.
- Barbara Swartling, Board of Pensions, member of Bethany, Bainbridge Island.

Those whose terms are continuing:

- Rev. Paul Bartling (ret.), Division for Global Ministry (term ends in 2005), member of Luther Memorial, Seattle.
- Rev. Mia Baumgartner - Commission for Women (term ends in 2005) , Interim Associate at Sammamish Hills, Sammamish.

Churchwide Reps. From Region One

Several names from our synod were presented for election at the 2003 Churchwide Assembly. None of our nominees were elected. However, several nominees from Region One were elected and they are:

- Division for Congregational Ministries–Robert 'Rob' Stuberg; Helena, Mont.; 1F
- Division for Outreach– Mary Anderson; Kennewick, Wash.; 1D
- Division for Higher Education and Schools–Dale Soden; Spokane, Wash.; 1D
- Division for Church in Society–Michael Swenson; Nome, Alaska; 1A
- Board of Pensions– James Penner; Helena, Mont.; 1F
- Committee on Discipline–Kathryn Nelson; Fircrest, Wash.; 1C

Board of Pensions

Here is some of the newest information from the ELCA Board of Pensions:

- **Healthy Leaders Enhance Lives**–The ELCA Board of Pensions and Division for Ministry are collaborating to provide useful new health and wellness resources for rostered leaders, seminarians and other ELCA employees. Working with the Mayo Clinic, we are pleased to offer you the following:
  - www.elcaforwellness.org is a feature-rich web site that brings you news, information, interactive tools and support to help you take charge of your health. Register today and see articles and links compiled specifically for you at www.elcaforwellness.org
  - Mayo Clinic HealthQuest is a monthly newsletter that provides practical, easy-to-read information on a variety of important health topics, written and reviewed by Mayo Clinic. You will also find important news on ELCA health benefits and programs each month. Watch your mailbox for a packet that contains your first issue.
- ***Seeds For The Parish* Features Health and Wellness**–The September edition of the Seeds for the Parish features the article *Your congregation can encourage healthy leaders.* To view or download the Adobe pdf version of *Seeds for the Parish*, see www.elca.org/co/seeds/septoct03web.pdf (requires Adobe Acrobat Reader).
- **2004 Contribution Rates Are Finalized**–As you prepare your budgets and synodical compensation guidelines for next year, please remember to use the 2004 ELCA contribution rates. Contribution rates for 2004 are available to use with our contribution, couples contribution and total compensation calculators. Visit our on-line calculators today at www.elcabop.org/resources_tools/calculators

On The Radio

You can hear *Lutheran Vespers* every Sunday. Please support local programming. It is only with local support that the program is able to stay on the air. October shows are:

October 5–*The Resurrection of Karen McDermott*
October 12–*Children In Worship*
October 19–*The Worship Service in Detail*
October 26–*Halloween: The Real Evil of the Day*

7:30 a.m. on KTTH 770 AM and at 7 a.m. on KAPS 660 AM

Fall Means Elections

By Rev. Paul B. Benz, Director, Lutheran Public Policy Office

Greetings to you in this beautiful month of October when leaves have turned to those wonderful eye appealing colors. This is truly the Fall Classic not the World Series which should be renamed the "millionaire's club classic" (and I am a long time fan of the game of baseball).

October also means that elections are not too far off. We know that because of all the multi-colored signs plastered and planted on the sides of our streets and roads! One of my responsibilities is to be your resource for information on public policy concerns to our Church. This year we have one amendment to the state constitution and one initiative, I-841.

The amendment, from my current understanding, is not of significant importance.

The initiative, I-841, has to do with work place safety rules (ergonomics). The Building Industry Association of Washington is the main sponsor behind this initiative. I-841 would repeal our state's workplace ergonomic safety rule. A significant percentage of the 50,000 painful and often debilitating injuries each year can be prevented through the application of the ergonomic rule. The National Academy of Sciences and the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health have done studies that show ergonomic prevention works to reduce injuries.

Our denomination's most current social statement is about health care. The statement certainly relates to the issue and concerns of I-841. Our Economic Life social statement (pages 9-14) speaks to the issue of worker welfare/protections and corporate social responsibility. You can find both of these statements at www.elca.org and link to social statements or Division for Church in Society. I encourage congregations during the months of September and October to hold town halls, forums or candidate's nights. This is a very appropriate witness for our church to the community. It is a way for us to exercise our faith and the Church's public voice in the political arena; an arena that affects people's lives, particularly the *least of these* in our midst.

As always I look forward to your invitation to have me facilitate discussion on social justice issues or to do a "teach and preach" on the advocacy ministry of our Church on a Sunday morning. Your individual and/or congregational financial support to help this ministry is greatly appreciated. Checks can be made payable to LPPO and sent to: 433 Minor Ave. N. Seattle 98109.

Phone: 206-694-5772
Email:pbenz@lcsnw.org

Retirees To Gather

At noon on Thursday, October 30, Mavis Hatlen is hosting the second annual October potluck at Christ the King (13th and Pine) in Snohomish. This is a great opportunity for retired pastors and their wives and clergy widows to gather for food and fellowship. Don't forget to bring a contribution to the potluck. For more information contact Mavis Hatlin at 360-568-4860 or Christ the King at 360-568-5704.

Ministry in the Middle

Associates in Ministry (AIMs) and AIM candidates are invited to a retreat, *Ministry in the Middle,* from November 17-19, 2003, at the Ursuline Centre in Great Falls, Mont.

Marianne Wilkinson, AIM, from Lawrence, Kan., will lead the retreat exploring the unique call to ministry of Associates in Ministry. The retreat will feature presentations, discussions, worship, connection time, quiet time and the centre's labyrinth. Built around the shape of worship, the retreat will move from confession and lament to rejoicing to sending forth. There will also be time to visit with Bishop Omland. And there will be a special component on AIMs mentoring AIM candidates, led by Pat Witt, AIM. This retreat is sponsored by NRIT and the Montana Synod, and is open to AIMs and AIM candidates. The cost is $130, which includes meals and two nights at the retreat center. The retreat will begin at 3 p.m. on Nov. 17, and conclude at noon on Nov. 19. For more information contact Pastor Jessica Crist, jcrist@sofast.net, or telephone at 406 453-1461.

Connecting Com-munities

Christine Grumm of the Women's Funding Network is the keynote speaker for the 2003 Celebrating Community Connections event, *From Outrage to Hope, Moving from Faith to Action.* Plan to attend the event
9 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Saturday, Nov. 1, at Immanuel in Seattle.

This year the event focuses on connecting our faith to our daily social ministry–the work people are doing to build community. Come and share your wisdom and learn from the wisdom of others as you explore building a social change agenda in our congregations through faith and conversation, the role our faith plays in moving us along in the continuum of social change and what members like you need as support from your congregation. Lutheran Community Services Northwest sponsors this event. For more information please contact Mary Mills at 206-694-5702 or email at mmills@lcsnw.org.

Finding A Middle Ground

The issues surrounding homosexuality divide families, congregations and denominations. The issues intensify when people assume extreme positions on either end of the controversy. Respected pastor, psychologist, author Dr. Merton Strommen has recently completed a book that outlines a middle ground for the Church. Among the many voices being raised today, Dr. Strommen patiently proposes a Gospel ministry dialectic in which Christians live under the authority of the Gospel and its power to transform lives while demonstrating love to a maligned part of society.

You are invited to hear Dr. Strommen speak on the topic *Homosexuality and the Church...Finding A Middle Ground* on Sunday, Nov. 2, at Bethlehem in Marysville, (51st Avenue and Grove Street). In addition to leading the adult forum time at 10 a.m., there will be a presentation and discussion time beginning at 3 p.m.

From his Minneapolis home to our Marysville gathering, be assured that Dr. Strommen brings his love for Christ and His Church in a caring presence. Folks finding themselves in extreme positions may be disappointed that it is not his goal to be shrill or abrasive. But a clear word finding its foundation in God's Word will be presented.

Youth Camp in Russia!

Your congregation is invited to send one adult and up to four youth to a Bible/Leadership Camp in Russia for both Russian and American youth. The committee is still working out the logistics (location, cost, etc.) Concrete information will be available at the end of September. At this time, the trip is tentatively planned for August 6-20, 2004. Touring of Russia is included in that time before and after the camp.

Please begin conversation with youth and adults who you would like to participate in this camp. The camp will be geared for older teenage youth– those who are in 10th, 11th, and 12th grades this school year. Your adult leader needs to be a person who has interest in youth, as this trip will be focused on youth ministry. Your adult and youth will be expected to participate in the entire event. The deadline for registration and the first deposit of $50 is due on December 10, 2003.

For more information contact: Pollie Erickson, Holy Spirit in Kirkland at 425-823-2727; John Grebe, St. Luke's in Bellevue at 425-822-7907; Leena Prindle, Grace in Des Moines at 206-878-2460; or Dave Ellingson, Region 1 Congregational Ministries, at 206624-0093, ext.112.

New From Augsburg Publishing

To order either of these books, telephone 1-800-328-4648 or visit www.fortresspress.com.

Listen! God Is Calling!

In this new book author D. Michael Bennethum presents Martin Luther's teaching on vocation as an aid for helping believers find deeper meaning in their daily work–recognizing in their ordinary labors a way in which they can, and already do serve God. Cost is $9.99. ISBN: 0-8066-4994-7.

The author has been an ordained pastor in the Lutheran Church since 1979, serving congregations in Pennsylvania and Georgia. He has done graduate work in Reformation theology at Emory University and holds a Doctor of Ministry Degree from the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia. Currently he and his family live in Reading, Pa., where he serves as senior pastor of Reformation Evangelical Lutheran Church.

Listen! God is Calling! is part of the new Lutheran Voices series. For more information about this series visit www.lutheranvoices.com.

Beyond The Scandals: A Guide to Healthy Sexuality for Clergy

In this book G. Lloyd Rediger is a uniquely qualified national expert on all these questions with a strong message for clergy about their sexuality, spirituality and behavior.

Beyond The Scandals offers a comprehensive and authoritative account of clergy sexuality and sexual ethics in the profession. Rediger includes up-to-date information on the social and legal context, helpful research on the relevant ethnic and gender and denominational factors, a religious and moral framework for understanding clergy sexuality and comprehensive analysis of the sexual problems encountered by clergy.

The author is ordained in the Presbyterian Church (USA) and is a consultant to denominations, chaplains and seminaries on issues of clergy health, self-care and sexual malfeasance. Rediger is the author of *Coping with Clergy Burnout; Ministry & Sexuality; Clergy Killers;* and *Fit to Be a Pastor.* He holds a doctorate in pastoral counseling from Chicago Theological Seminary, and is a member of the American Association of Pastoral Counselors and the American Association of Christian Counselors. Cost is $18. ISBN: 0-8006-3613-9.

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Experiencing the Assembly

Varied sermons brought about conversation; some stirred me to action, others brought tears or laughter; some reminded me that healing in our world and our own healing as brothers and sisters is possible through faith in Christ and following God's Word.

I learned that we must step forward in action, not sit back and watch, which is apparent in the new Evangelism Strategy and Mission Plan found on the ELCA website at www.elca.org/assembly/03/. The assembly was not just a business meeting, but also an opportunity to learn from my brothers and sisters across the ELCA and around the world.

Editor's Note: You can review and download a brief summary of actions from the 2003 ELCA Churchwide Assembly at our synod's website at www.lutheransnw.org or by visiting the ELCA's website at www.elca.org.

Light A Candle

In recognition of Mental Illness Awareness Week, Lutheran congregations are asked to light a candle and to say a prayer for persons with mental illnesses and their families on one Sunday in the month of October. This is the *Eighth Annual All-Lutheran Candlelighting For Mental Illness.* Copy ready bulletin inserts are available by contacting Pastor Lisa Cleaver at 1-800-638-3522, ext. 2692, or email at lcleaver@elca.org.

Family Farm Summit

The Family Farm Summit will be held October 13 and 14 at the Convention Center in Wenatchee. Please contact the Lutheran Public Policy Office (LPPO) if you are interested in attending.

LPPO is an active member of the Washington Sustainable Farm and Food Network and advocates for agricultural policies that promote sustainability for family based farms. In addition to contributing $5.4 billion to Washington's economy, agriculture preserves open spaces, produces a bounty of wholesome foods and lends a rural character and landscape that attractive to residents, tourists and other visitors. That is why it is important to come together and forge a plan for creating a positive future for growers in our state. Plan to attend one or both days. Or, consider attending at least one day of this conference or, in lieu of attending, have a forum on *From whom do we buy our food and from where does this food come?* For more information, contact the LPPO office at pbenz@lcsnw.org or telephone 206-694-5772).

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A Word from The Assistant to the Bishop

Passionate spirituality is the third quality charàcteristic which is another way of saying that Christians live committed lives and practice their faith with joy and enthusiasm. Enthusiasm is contagious so it makes sense that those who are enthusiastic about the gospel will be more successful in carrying out the Great Commission.

Unexpectedly, the fourth quality characteristic is functional structures. Avery Dulles talks abut the church as institution but it always seems so much less important than all the other ways the church might be expressed. Schwartz's team discovered a variety of structures with one thing in common, they promoted the ongoing multiplication of the ministry.

The fifth quality characteristic is inspiring worship. It wasn't that a particular type or tradition was more inspiring than another type, but that in its most literal sense, the Holy Spirit was present, *inspiratio*, not just assumed.

The sixth characteristic, holistic small groups, described the natural place for Christians to discover and explore their spiritual gifts, to serve and be served by others. The understanding of discipleship becomes clearer in relational groups.

The seventh quality characteristic was need-oriented evangelism. This has little to do with programs and committees and much to do with inviting and being open. It's a scary topic for shy Lutherans to address but a defining characteristic of churches committed to the great Commission.

The eighth characteristic is called loving relationships which we all think we do well. But more than liking those we sit with on Sunday morning, this characteristic can be measured by joy and laughter and most of all, hospitality.

It's very easy to write all these things down and much harder to put them into practice. To read more about this research, I commend Schwartz's book to you. To put these things into practice, I commend our colleagues. We are the church together, both inside and outside our congregations.

"He also said, 'The kingdom of God is as if someone would scatter seed on the ground, and would sleep and rise night and day, and the seed would sprout and grow, he does not know how. The earth produces of itself, first the stalk, then the head, then the full grain in the head. But when the grain is ripe, at once he goes in with his sickle, because the harvest has come.' "

Mark 4:26-29 NRSV

JUST 4 YOUTH!

Let Justice Roll 2003

Making Connections: Living Locally for Global Justice

Are you passionate about peace and justice issues? Did you know that three youth (grades 9-12) and one adult from your congregation are invited to Holden Village this fall? Join us for this great event from October 4-6, 2003. Let Justice Roll is a fantastic fall weekend for you to get away to breathtaking Holden Village and explore issues around justice. With a smaller group, you will be able to dig deep into the topic and hear quality speakers. Cost is $130 per person.

To Register or for more information: Contact Josh Post, Let Justice Roll Coordinator, at 425 961-5511 or email at post@tlc.edu. For more information see *Justabouteverythingpages* or visit www.elcaregion1.org.

It's Here!!!

The *2003-2004 Justabouteverythingpages 2003-2004*

Each year, ELCA Region 1 Youth & Family Ministry compiles *just about everything* you need to know about upcoming events, key synod contact people, and lots of other youth & family ministry stuff into the *Justabouteverythingpages* (JAEP). Registration forms have been streamlined and some fun has been added to all of the information you've come to expect in this resource. Throughout the year JAEP updates can be found on Region One's website at www.elcaregion1.org/youth. For more information, please contact the ELCA Region 1 Congregational Ministries Office at 206 624-0093 ext. 113 or 1-800 755-5831 ext. 113, or visit our website: www.elcaregion1.org.

Care Packages For College Students

Looking for the perfect way to help your college freshmen continue their faith journey? Send them each a Lutheran Student Movement ***Care Package!!!*** The package includes: one insulated, stainless steel travel mug; several school supplies; yummy snacks that each college student craves; and information about the Lutheran Student Movement and contact information for each student's regional representative. Cost is only $15. To order visit www.lsm-usa.org.

Children Ministry

First Lutheran of Richmond Beach in Shoreline is searching for a Director of Children's Ministry (birth through 6th grade.) This is a part-time position. Please contact Karen Beasley, Youth and Family Committee Chair, at 206-546-0320.

Financial Expertise Needed

Local mission worker with financial expertise is needed to help reach non-churched people through Church of the Apostles (COTA) in Seattle, taking the church to those who never enter our buildings. But you can do it at your desk–supporting this ministry with your accounting skills. If you are able to give several hours a month to take on treasurer-type tasks for this ministry, please contact Pastor Karen Ward at karen@apostleschurch.org or call Kathryn Buffum at 425-778-2189.

Church Office Coord/ Secretary

First Lutheran Church of Richmond Beach is looking for a successful candidate to fill the position of Church Office Coordinator/Secretary. This is a full-time position. Experience in general secretarial and receptionist duties, ability to work with staff and volunteers, coordinate congregational activities and weekly publications. Requires computer proficiency in use of Microsoft Windows, Word and Microsoft Publisher. Excel and data entry programs a plus. Christian background and knowledge of church procedures necessary. Send resume and cover letter ASAP to: Personnel Committee, First Lutheran Church of Richmond Beach, 18354 Eighth Ave. NW, Shoreline, WA 98177.

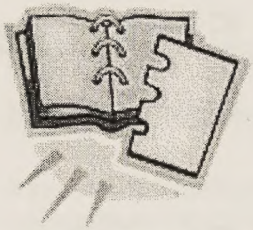
Free Room Dividers

These dividers are high-quality panels suitable for office. Trimmed in oak and covered with grey cloth. The interior wood and foam padding (1.5 inch thickness) provides sound absorption. Twenty-eight of the panels are five feet high by three feet wide, 14 are five feet high by four feet wide, and seven are five feet high by five feet wide. Prefer to donate to a church or nonprofit group. Contact Christ in Edmonds at 425-778-2189 or email clcedmonds@mindspring.com.

Organ For Sale

A Rodgers Organ w/bench; Model 22-B; 2 manual, 32 note pedal, 5 pre-sets stops on Swell are independent; speaker cabinets included. Has been regularly maintained and would suit a small parish/chapel or as a home organ. Available late Oct. 2003. Contact Karla Stalwick at 425-885-7649 or Faith in Redmond at 425-885-1810.

News and Notes



- The **2004 Northwest Washington Synod 2004 Congregation Compensation Guidelines** for rostered leaders is now available on the synod website at www.lutheransnw.org. Click on Leadership.
- Congratulations to **Pastor Lou Accola, Wooden Cross in Woodinville.** He received the 2003 Orca Ledership Award from Chief Seattle Scout Council, Northeast District, for mentoring more than 100 Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts in the "God and Country" Program Series.
- The Northest Chinese School (NWCS) held its summer program at **Faith in Redmond** this past summer. The school promotes appreciation and pride of the Chinese culture and heritage and helps to develop children into bilingual intellectuals. Classes included the Chinese language, math, a focus on the arts, Chinese martial arts and culture. NWCS is a nonprofit educational organization founded in 1995.
- This summer **Prince of Peace in SeaTac** hosted two international guests: Babu Kasukuto, a 16-year old young man from the Republic of Congo, and Yana Aizetova, the Director of the Lutheran Youth Organization in Russia. Babu and Yana brought with them glimpses of how the Lutheran Church is working in their world.
- The new study guide for **Journey Together Faithfully, Part Two: The Church and Homosexuality** was mailed to all congregations in early September. You can also review and/or download the document at www.elca.org/faithfuljourney/.
- The **2006 ELCA Youth Gathering** will be held July 5-9 and July 12-16 in San Antonio, TX.
- **We visited the ELCA website during the Churchwide Assembly!** At the end of the 2003 ELCA Churchwide Assembly the Churwide Assembly page had more than 20,000 unique visitors, more than 100,000 page views and more than 970,000 "hits".

Rev. Richard G. Christensen

Rev. Christensen was ordained in 1956 and began his ministry as mission developer at St. Stephen's in Seattle from 1956-61. He then had a six-month special assignment to Holy Shepherd, Kansas City, Mo., followed by calls to University in Seattle (1965-71); St. Matthew's in North Hollywood, Calif. (1974-80); Christ our Savior in Anchorage, Alaska (1980-82); King of Life in Port Moody, B.C., Canada (1982-88); and Zion in Ferndale (1989-92). He retired in 1992. Peace to his memory.

To Keep in Our Prayers...

Within Our Family

† **Rev. Paul and Karen Gabrielsen (ret.)** as their family mourns the death of their **ten-year old granddaughter, Emily Warner, and also the death of Rev. Gabrielsen's mother, Ruth.** For many months we have asked for prayers for healing as Emily has battled against cancer. Peace to Emily's and Ruth's memories. Cards may be sent to: 12414 89th Place NE; Kirkland, WA 98034.

† The family of **Rev. Richard G. Christensen (ret.).** Rev. Christensen passed away on August 25. He was living in Bellingham with his wife Sarah (Sally). His service was held at Grace in Blaine and was conducted by Rev. Dennis Wildermuth. Cards may be sent to: Sally Christensen, 1327 Whatcom St, Bellingham, WA 98229-5704. (See related article on page 14.)

† **John Corkran**, Synod Council member, as he waits for the infection to heal and for his second hip surgery.

† **Arne Pietz, son of Rev. Lothar Pietz** (on our synod roster, currently serving an interim at Immanuel, Boise). Arne is experiencing life-threatening complications following surgery.

† **Rev. James Ericksen (ret.)** who has been ill.

† **Rev. Paul Wuest** who has had a recurrence of cancer and is undergoing treatment at this time. Cards may be sent to: 12718 SE 254th Ct.; Kent, WA 98031; prwuest@comcast.net.

† **Phil Young, husband of Linda Albert Young.** In April Phil was diagnosed with leukemia. He underwent a bone marrow transplant in early September.

† **Rev. Eric Ranum** as he heals from radiation treatments for his brain tumor. Updates are posted at www.Trinitylutheran-cda.org.

† **Rev. Robert Moylan (ret.)** as he deals with progressive muscular dystrophy.

† **Rev. Jim Schoeld (ret.)** as he learns to do new things.

† At the regular **Tuesday worship and staff meeting in the Synod Office**, we pray for our pastors, churches and members. We pray for the health and healing of those we mention in our hearts. We pray for our brothers and sisters in Christ in our companion synods in Ethiopia and Russia. We pray for the pastors, churches and members of Southwestern Texas, as we are partnered with them by Churchwide. We pray for our children and young adults as they begin a year of learning, and we pray that they experience your wondrous love. We pray for peace.

Within Our Family depends upon you-not only for prayers, but also your prayer requests. Please contact the Synod office with any additions to this column.

New In The Resource Center

Transfiguration Ministry to a Wounded World: Suffering and Healing and *Spirituality and Culture*

These two videos feature lectures by well-respected speaker Sister Joan Chittister, a Benedictine nun from Erie, Pa. Each is 50 minutes in length.

In *Part 1: Suffering and Healing (V1326)* Sr. Joan addresses the concept that if our ministry is to be real, effective, gospel and true, we must base our ministry on a justice that seeks to continue the work of Jesus, healer and prophet, not just to comfort, but to challenge and to advocate for change in the institutions that are victimizing people. If we are to be holier people, we must be angrier more often.

In *Part 2: Spirituality and Culture (V1327)* viewers learn that carrying on God's work in the world is the spiritual life. We need to be aware of the cultural realities that are challenging the gospel now and decide how the gospel can challenge the culture if we are to be a holy people.

To reserve videos, call the Region One Resource Center at 1-800-755-5831, Ext. 100, or 206-624-0093, Ext. 100.

Soundings

News and information for pastors, associates in ministry, lay leaders and ecumenical friends of

Northwest Washington Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA)
5519 Phinney Ave. N
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